

this list today that we passed out doesn't represent organizations that are for the bill and there are more than a dozen of them there, this is an accurate statement of the responsible...of all, most all the rural associations, and it's where the leadership of those organizations has come down. They know something needs to be done. They worked very hard and very conscientiously, and I have to hand it to the aggies, they came through on their word in terms of dealing with this matter and dealing with it responsibly, all except one group, and this is the result. This is a rural solution to what is essentially a rural problem, and it's had input from every part of the rural community.

SENATOR DIERKS: Do I have some time left?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There are...there is one and a half minutes left, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Beutler, the leadership may have come in support, but the working guy, the working stiff, the guy that's making his living doing this business did not come in support. I can promise you that. And I look at the people that testified here in favor on your first committee statement, you look at those opponents. Those opponents were farmers.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: And they came in opposition. The proponents were all the executive officers of those associations. If that is your idea of ground support, well, then we disagree. There's...you have to understand that 85 percent of the irrigation that is done in this state is done by ground water irrigation systems, 85 percent of it, and you are trying to put those 85 percent on the sacrificial altar to support an idea that doesn't need to be there. We don't have any need for this bill. What's the need for the bill? The NRDs are doing an excellent job of controlling water the way it is. They have everything in their hands that they need to do this. Do we need to provide a superior power over here in Lincoln, Nebraska, to have more...to have...to have more pressure...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...on ground water irrigators? I think not.